

The Holt County Sentinel.

42ND YEAR.

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FOR SIXTY-FOUR YEARS.

George H. Allen Succeeds Tom Curry as Postmaster, of Oregon—The Twenty Second Appointment.

With the coming of the 30th day of April, 1907, Mr. Tom Curry retires from the postmaster-ship of Oregon, having served nine years and six months, the second longest continuous service of any of his predecessors, Mr. Curry serving from November 1, 1897, to April 30, 1907. Mrs. Kate Holtz serving from March 10, 1870, to November 15, 1891; Mrs. Holtz also served from July 1, 1889 to July 1, 1893.

We feel that we but voice the sentiment of our entire community, when we say that it is with regret that Mr. Curry and his estimable wife, who has been his assistant, has been compelled by reason of his failing health, to resign this position, for while we, as a community, have been fortunate in having many excellent postmasters, we believe it is conceded on every hand that they have made the most efficient, careful, pains taking officials ever in charge of the office here. He knew no limit to the hours of his labors when the convenience and accommodations to the office patrons were to be considered. The service has been so extensively increased and improved, until today we have superior postal facilities to that of many towns many times larger and with superior railroad facilities—he has not only given hours of extra time, but freely of his purse to bring this increase of service, never for a moment lagging for fear forsooth it meant more hours of labor for himself and assistant. Under his efficient and untiring service the postal business has nearly doubled in volume, and during all these years of his service, he has never had a correcting sheet sent him from the auditor's department of the postoffice department. When he became postmaster we were content on having four daily mails, now we have eight.

In addition to these, the rural mail complete service has been established creating five routes out of Oregon, which of course has necessarily increased the amount of labor, as well as business, and these routes under his supervision have become so thoroughly efficient, that we doubt if there is any superior management and service to be found anywhere; the carriers by his example and thoroughness have also become "inoculated"

every work by Mr. Charles Narans, who is quite familiar with the responsibilities of the postal service. Mr. Allen served as county collector from 1889 to 1893, and since that time during the rush in the collector's office, his assistance the various county collectors, and is an expert in this department of our county affairs. He is the son of the late Edgar L. Allen, who served as postmaster here from 1881 to 1885. He was born and raised in Oregon and educated in our school here. Leaving the school here he went on his father's farm in Liberty township, and from there into the collector's office. He is married and has an interesting family of three children.



GEORGE H. ALLEN.

The patrons of this office will find him every way qualified; an obliging and efficient postmaster, who will take pride in keeping the service up to the splendid standard attained by Mr. and Mrs. Curry.

On Wednesday evening, feeling that they were again "free," no longer "government slaves," free to be at their home the "live-long" evening; to be under their own "vine and fig tree," free from the cares and worries incident to the life of the postmaster, they simply breathed freer and glad indeed to be released from official duties, they took advantage of these and invited the rural mail carriers, Mr. Allen and Mr. D. P. Dobyns to spend the evening with them and, after 8 p. m. the closing hour of the postoffice, they gathered under this invitation. A most enjoyable evening was had and an elegant supper

From each corner of the room to the chandelier were suspended streamers in the national colors. Immediately in the rear of the host, was a large flag gracefully unfurled, forming a most pleasing background.

No doubt at this time a historical review of the postoffice here will be of interest to all our readers. Prior to the establishing of the office here, the people obtained their mail from the "Thorpe Mill" postoffice on Mill Creek, and was located on Judge Russell's land on 12 50.38. This office was created in 1839, the year that envelopes were first used and the year previous to the introduction of the postage stamp in this country. The postage on a letter then cost 25 cents, and the postmaster on collecting the postage would write across the face, just above the address: "Postage paid, 25 cents;" now the postage is two cents. Judge Russell was commissioned as postmaster and was therefore the first P. M. in Holt county.

The building used was a hewed log house, and was the original home of Mr. Russell, which was put up by him on arriving in this county in 1838, and was also used as the pioneer school of the county. Mr. Russell was also the first star router of the county, and carried the mail to Savannah, in Andrew county, once a week. The mail pouches rarely ever contained to exceed four to six letters, and such a thing as a newspaper passing over this route was unheard of. During the month of March the rural mail carriers alone handled on the five routes a total of 19,568 newspapers, 2,939 circulars, 5,470 letters, 1,329 postal cards, 533 packages—a total of 29,899 pieces of mail matter handled during the month of March 1907, alone.

The office was continued at Thorpe's Mill until the town of Oregon was fairly under way, and Judge Russell named William Zook as his successor, in 1842. Zook had just opened a stock of goods in the town, Oregon having been laid out the summer previous, the first sale of town lots occurring in October, 1841, and 16 years before the town was incorporated by act of the legislature, which was November 5, 1857. The strange feature of this action was, that Mr. Russell named his own successor and the office was moved without any warrant or authority from the postoffice department. Now you cannot move an office without first presenting a plat of the new abiding place, showing the streets and alleys; the surrounding or adjoining

of Oregon was established February 1, 1801—J. J. Lukens, carrier. Now there are five routes out of Oregon, to wit: J. J. Lukens, No. 1; Lincoln Shafer, No. 2; Hugh Harsha, No. 3; Frank Graham, No. 4; Charles Narans, No. 5.

The business of the Oregon office has been made profitable to the government, as the office has paid a total of \$22,030.68 to postal department, as a net profit over and above all expenses connected with the office or an annual profit of about \$2400.

The money order department will show that the Oregon office has received \$42,115 in excess of the orders paid, showing that this is the amount of surplus money order funds, that Postmaster Curry during his term of office has remitted to the government depository. In other words the patrons of this office have sent abroad an average of \$373 monthly more than they have received.

The first money order paid was for \$3.75 and made payable to Albert Roecker, then sheriff of Holt county. The remitter was Samuel Edsworth, of St. Joseph.

Lawrence, Kas., postoffice was then the depository for postmasters in this territory, and Postmaster Jewell made his first deposit of surplus funds with the Lawrence office on July 19th, and the amount of surplus funds remitted was \$70.00.

Beginning with the creation of the postoffice at Thorpe's Mill, in 1839, with R. H. Russell as postmaster, the following is the roster of the postmasters at Oregon:

William Zook, January, 1842.
John C. Norman, January 17, 1843.
Geo. W. Kelley, December 9, 1845.
John Dozier, February 7, 1848.
Galen Crow, March 19, 1851.
Henry W. Peter, December 5, 1853.
W. H. Williams, December 23, 1856.
James J. Ruley, January 20, 1857.
B. J. Bowen, February 20, 1860.
John P. Halbach, January 2, 1861.
Howard T. Combs, May 11, 1861.
W. H. Sterrett, March 15, 1862.
Wm. Hawkins, February 24, 1865.
B. F. Potter, April 25, 1866.
S. P. Jewell, March 16, 1869.
Mrs. Kate G. Holtz, March 10, 1871.
E. L. Allen, November 14, 1881.
Mrs. Kate G. Holtz, July 1, 1885.
D. P. Dobyns, July 1, 1889.
Henry Shuts, November 30, 1893.
Tom Curry, November 15, 1897.
George H. Allen, April 30, 1907.

All of these are now dead with the exception of Williams, Sterrett, Hawkins, Holtz, Dobyns, Curry and Geo. Allen. Mrs. Eliza Sterrett and her son, Wm. H., and James Ramsay are the only survivors who have lived to have witnessed all these changes, and live in this immediate section from the day of the establishing of the postoffice at Thorpe's Mill in 1839.

Failure to Keep Pace.

The explanations of the insufficiency of our transportation system vary greatly in detail, but agree on the main point. The general impression naturally is that of shortage of cars, and at many points actual shortage is specifically proved. But at other places, including important centers, it is shown that great numbers of cars are unavailable for lack of motive power. Some of the foremost transportation authorities like J. J. Hill have expressed the deliberate opinion that motive power and cars cannot be used to best advantage because of track shortage, going so far as to hold that mileage should be doubled to meet present requirements, while still others are disposed to locate the trouble in terminal facilities.

Since conclusive evidence is produced of the insufficiency of the railroad machine in each of these vital parts, the cumulative effect is to bring out into clear light a serious transportation emergency. If it were mere temporary local embarrassment, which is not unusual during the season of crop movement, the matter would not be vitally important. But the indisputable facts seem to demonstrate that the transportation system has generally failed to keep pace with our enormous industrial expansion during recent years.

Notwithstanding the extensive preparations for new construction and betterments which the roads are making, and even though the increase of freight and travel should not continue at the present extraordinary rate, the prospect for the immediate future is one of extreme strain to meet the demands of business. The supply of labor and materials alone limits extension of transportation facilities and would barely suffice for new demands, even if the roads had to this time kept up with the development of the country.

—Mrs. Lincoln Shafer died at her home, near Helwig, Wednesday evening, May 1st, 1907. Funeral will be held today, Friday, and interment will be at Fillmore. Obituary next week.

Circuit Court.

Court was called Monday in accordance with an adjournment made a week ago, and Judge Ellison on arriving began business at once. A grand jury having been called, the court gave an exhaustive charge to them and they retired to begin their inquisition. The jury is composed of
Ira Chuning, Bigelow.
J. T. Dearmont, Benton.
Wm. Mills, Clay.
B. F. Morgan, C. E. Meyer, J. R. Pescher, Lewis.
Edward Wilkes, Forest.
W. J. Noelsch, Hickory.
Walter Cannon, Liberty.
John Peters, Lincoln.
W. H. Alkire, Minton.
Henry Nordloh, Union.

Mr. Dearmont was chosen as foreman, C. E. Meyer, sheriff; W. H. Alkire, clerk. The petit jury was then impaneled, after the attorneys had made their usual motions. This jury is composed of
Frank Walker, Bigelow.
M. J. Bennett, Claude Clark, George Hayes, E. Miller, Benton.

W. H. Patterson, W. S. Schooler, W. H. Patterson, Cl. y.
Ed. Evans, A. W. Kelley, Forest.
W. Baker, Ed. Leach, Ed. Raiser, Forbes.

W. H. Hodgins, Hickory.
M. R. Martin, Andrew Kreek, Ed. Wickham, Frank Lynch, Lewis.
Jas. Cottier, Abe Snell, Liberty.
B. F. Buck, Lincoln.
G. D. Chuning, Minton.
G. W. Hubbard, Nodaway.
Geo. Secrist, C. L. Siple, Union.

The following cases have been disposed of:

State vs Earl Randall. The charge was grand larceny for stealing a set of harness belonging to Asa Sharp, of Craig. The case was called and submitted a jury, which returned a verdict of not guilty.

State vs Levi Cabbage. Defendant was charged before Esquire Hopkins, justice of the peace at Craig, with the seduction of Alice Lileley in the fall of 1905. A preliminary was had and Cabbage was bound over to the circuit court. It has now been nearly two years, and another continuance in the case was taken.

State vs Wm. H. Allen and Annie Creek; adultery. State dismisses.

Silas Bucher vs C B & Q R R Co. Damages. The defendant filed motion and bond for removal of cause to the federal court.

James Bush and Elizabeth Bush vs C B & Q R R Co. Damages. Defendant files motion and bond for removal of cause to the federal court.

J A Klopp vs Alex McArthur and wife. Appeal from J P court. Defendant files motion to require plaintiff to file additional bond.

State ex rel James H Meador vs E L Gaffney, A Lawrence, et al. Bond. Defendant files motion to require plaintiff to file additional bond.

Lilly S Perkins and Charles W Perkins vs Frances Berg, Frances Kelley, Robert Berg, Nellie Berg, et al. Partition. Defendants files motion for plaintiffs to give cost bond.

State vs George Carlton. Carrying concealed weapons. State dismisses.

Charley Stewart was called on the carpet for selling liquor unlawfully. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$200. On payment of \$40 and all costs, he was released on parole bond.

On December 29th last, Steve Hayes, colored, struck Mr. Heavilin, the town's basket maker, and felled him to the sidewalk; the fall caused a fracture of the skull, and Heavilin ceased his vocation for several weeks. Hayes was arrested and charged with felonious assault. On Tuesday his case was called and he pleaded guilty to common assault.

On Saturday, April 2nd, this year, Eli McCowan and Uncle Henry Veits got into an altercation in front of the Balconge store in Craig, and the former, in the heat of passion, struck the latter. Both are excellent citizens, and the affair was greatly regretted by friends. Suit was brought in the name of the state, charging Mr. McCowan with assault. The case was called and continued.

James Murray entered the Park hotel at Craig, on the night of April 7th; he did not register; he secreted himself in one of the hotel rooms, and things looked so suspicious that he was arrested and charged with burglary. He pleaded guilty and Judge Ellison informed him he could go to Jefferson City and board with the warden of the penitentiary for the next two years.

State vs P L Wyman, for unlawful sale of liquor, was continued.

State vs C C Phillips, for unlawful sale of liquor, was dismissed.

Robert King, by his next friend, D Ward King, vs G W Reavis. Damages. Dismissed.

Up to Wednesday evening the grand jurors had returned eight true bills.

Still Grinding.

The end of the extra session of the legislature is not in sight. The session has been at work for nearly 30 days and not a single bill has been sent to the governor. Three bills have passed each house, and have been sent to the other branch, but neither of these has come up for action there.

The senate has passed the Cooper quo warranto bill, the track bill and the public utility measure. The House has passed the Polk bill punishing persons who secure names by fraud on dramshop petitions or remonstrances, and the Carter anti-treating election day bill and the Hauck law enforcement measure.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that the extra session cannot possibly reach an adjournment before the 11th inst. There seems to be an impression that the appropriation bills are being unduly held back in order that other measures might be forced through. If these were only out of the way, it is our opinion that an adjournment would be had in double quick time.

The wholesale liquor dealers are greatly exercised over a proposed tax of 10 cents a gallon on whiskey. It is strictly a revenue measure.

The House has ordered to engrossment the Pemberton dramshop bill, without opposition.

The new measure provides that no person holding an office under the United States, or under any municipality in this state, or who is a member of any political committee shall be licensed to keep a saloon within 200 yards of a church, school or eleemosynary institution and in any city block chiefly occupied by residences.

Another provision is that the bond of the saloonkeeper shall be approved by the attorney general. Signatures to the petition for license must be written in ink, and no agent of the city or guardian of a minor is to be permitted to sign it. Persons delinquent in the payment of taxes are not to be counted as legal signers to the petition.

It requires saloons to be closed on Sunday and on any general election day, and on days when the saloon is closed "every blind, screen or device whatsoever which may obstruct a view of the interior thereof from the exterior shall be removed."

The Senate has ordered to engrossment the bill requiring all corporations to pay an extra tax or license of 25 cents on each \$1,000 of their capital stock.

The governor sent another special message, suggesting that steps be taken by the general assembly to collect from the federal government approximately 2½ million dollars on certain school land claims, which the state holds in due.

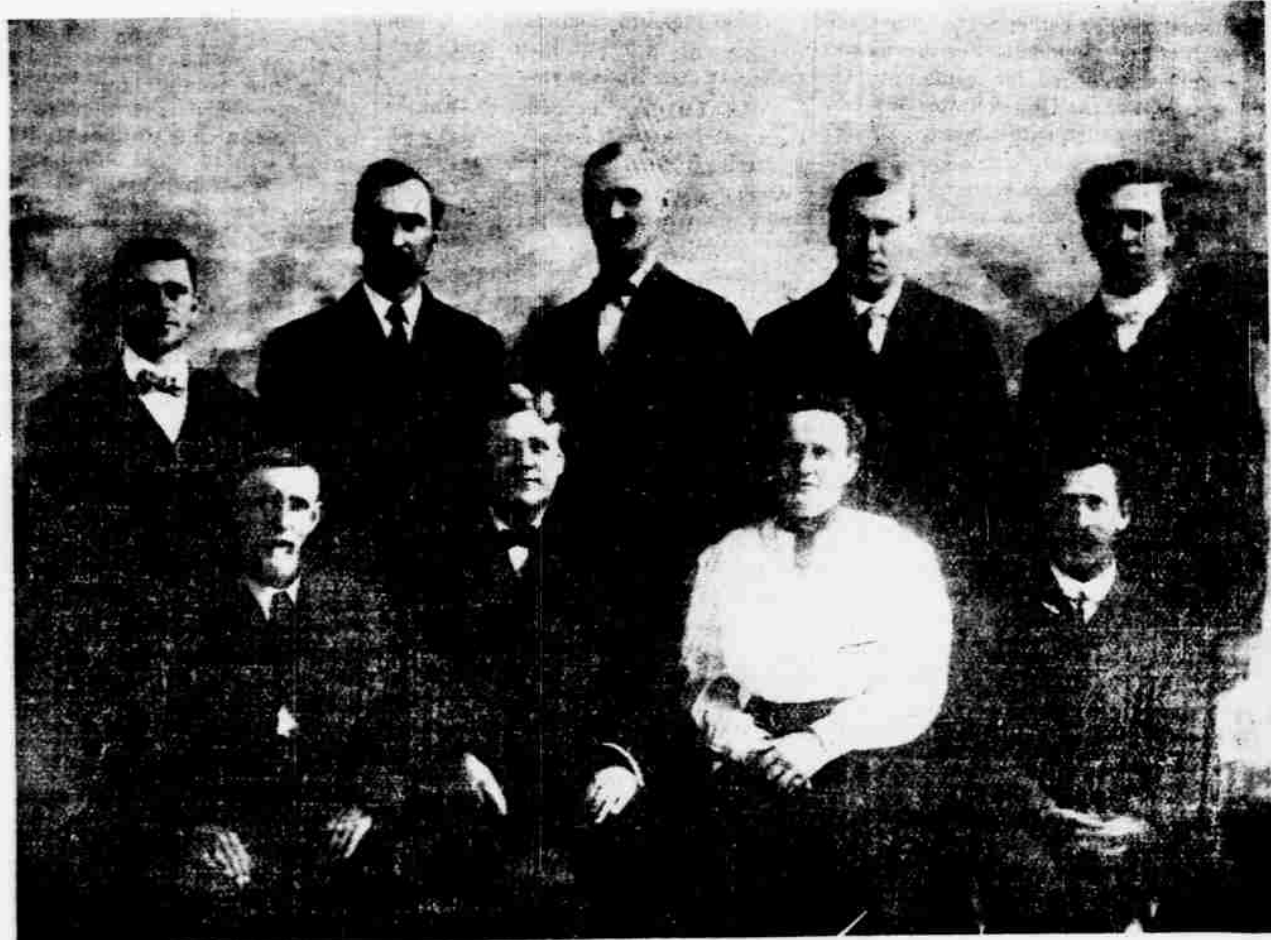
The criminal jurisprudence committee of the House has recommended for passage a bill providing that a dealer in potent medicines which would intoxicate must take out a license permitting the sale of intoxicants.

The senate committee has reported favorably on the bill that provides that no brewer, distiller or wholesale liquor dealer shall have any interest in a dramshop license, or to aid in any way in the establishment of a saloon.

Eighty-Sixth Mile Stone.

Uncle Andy Meyer reached his 86th birthday on Sunday last, April 28th, 1907. Sixty-four of those years he has abided in Holt county, excepting those years he served in the Mexican war, and hunted for gold in California in 1849. He married Mary, daughter of John Secrist, in 1851, and they were parents of 12 children, 11 of whom are living. Mrs. Meyer died Feb. 18, 1899, and at the present time he is making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Will Reburn, of the Shiloh district. His birthday was made the occasion of the coming together of his children in a family reunion, at the home of his son, J. H. Meyer, of the Shiloh district. It was a happy occasion indeed and brought joy and gladness to all those present. There were present his sons, Henry, Alf., Willard, George, Charles, Marve, of Holt county, and Don, of Kansas City; Robert S., now in New Mexico was absent. The daughters present were Anna, now Mrs. Long, of Mound City; Mrs. Reburn, of Shiloh; Milda, now Mrs. C. K. Corsant, of Maine, was absent. There were 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren present. There are 24 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren in the family. Cummins Porter, a life-long friend of Uncle Andy, was also present, and these "two old cronies" were especially happy the live long day. Of course there was an abundance of good things to eat, and as the guests arrived and unloaded their supplies, the scene resembled an army commissary department. We trust Uncle Andy's days may yet be many.

—The Oregon public schools will give this year a very elaborate commencement program. Next week's paper will give the program in full.



Rear row from left to right: Carriers, Charles Narans, John J. Lukens, Frank Graham, Substitute, Will Carroll, Carrier, Hugh Harsha. Front row, left to right: Substitute, Wilson Kennedy; Postmaster Curry and wife; Carrier, Lincoln Shafer

with system and carefulness, and thus this branch of the service has raised to the very highest standards. This loyalty to the patrons of the office and devotion to his every duty and obligation to the government has, to some extent, cost Mr. Curry an impairment to health, and we but hope and pray that it may only prove of a temporary character, and after the enjoyment of a much needed rest he may return fully and completely restored to his former splendid, vigorous condition of health.

On Tuesday evening, April 30th, the office and its contents, together with the large amount of valuable supplies were turned over to Mr. George H. Allen, who on Wednesday morning assumed his new responsibilities; these will be shared with him by Miss Olive, daughter of F. S. Morgan, who becomes the assistant postmaster. She is a most excellent young lady, thoroughly competent, and these will be aided in deliv-

served, and following the supper, Mr. and Mrs. Curry were each presented with a handsome souvenir sterling silver spoon, by the Oregon rural mail carriers, as a token of the high esteem and regard for them; for their uniform courtesies, discipline and kindnesses shown them at all times.

As the carriers turned their plates they were surprised beyond measure to find a handsome souvenir from Mr. and Mrs. Curry. It consisted of a handsome lapel button, in white enamel, with gold frame, in the form of a shield; on the enamel in gold letters was "1907, R. F. D." It was such a surprise, that these faithful servants of the postal service for a moment were speechless. The souvenir is original with Mr. Curry and was made to order for this occasion.

The dining room and table presented a most pleasing picture. At each plate was a small American flag and the centerpiece was a cluster of the same.

buildings, by whom occupied and for what purposes they are used. A vast amount of "red tape" also goes with the appointment of a postmaster.

The postoffice at Oregon, proper, was established January 17, 1843, and Dr. John C. Norman was the first postmaster, his commission was dated January 17, 1843, and was signed by Charles A. Wickliffe, who was then postmaster general, and John Tyler was president.

The office continued as a fourth class office until June, 1892, when it was advanced to the presidential class, under the administration of D. P. Dobyns.

It became a money order office July 14, 1899, while Sam P. Jewell was postmaster. The first application for a money order was made by Mary E. Cottrell, who remitted \$4.20 to Stockman & Co., of Boston, Mass., paying a fee of 10 cents; for this amount the fee is now 5 cents.

The first rural free delivery route out